

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
1 August 2002 (01.08.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 02/060124 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **H04L 12/26**, 29/12, G08C 25/00, H04M 11/00, H04L 12/56, G06F 11/07

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/02326

(22) International Filing Date: 25 January 2002 (25.01.2002)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/264,445 26 January 2001 (26.01.2001) US

(71) Applicant: NETBOTZ, INC. [US/US]; 11044 Research Boulevard, Suite C-100, Austin, TX 78759 (US).

(72) Inventors: PRIMM, Michael, R.; 10237 Matoca Way, Austin, TX 78726 (US). FOWLER, John, J.; 11914 Lincolnshire Avenue, Austin, TX 78758 (US). FAULKNER, Gary; 12609 Chittim Circle, Austin, TX 78759 (US).

(74) Agent: HULSEY, William, N.; Hughes & Luce, L.L.P., Suite 2800, 1717 Main Street, Dallas, TX 75210 (US).

(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (regional): European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR).

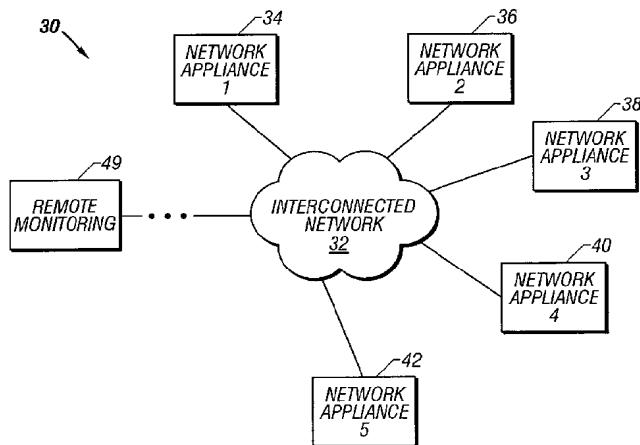
Published:

— with international search report

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
18 September 2003

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR A SET OF NETWORK APPLIANCES WHICH CAN BE CONNECTED TO PROVIDE ENHANCED COLLABORATION, SCALABILITY, AND RELIABILITY



WO 02/060124 A3

(57) Abstract: The invention is directed to a network-enabled appliance. The appliance may aid the remote monitoring of various measured data. The device may monitor a variable or set of variables and output the data upon request. In addition, the appliance may issue alarms, alerts, warning and other notifications when a variable matches a setpoint or undergoes a specified change, deviation, and/or fluctuation. Further the appliance may be operable to communicate with other appliances. The communication may comprise periodic pinging of peer appliances. In this manner, a peer appliance may detect a failure in other network-enabled appliances when an anticipated ping is not received. Further, the communication may enable the establishment of a directory of capabilities of various appliances. In this manner, a group of appliances may perform more complex behaviors by grouping resources. Further, a group of appliances may act to reestablish the behavior of a failed device.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/02326

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H04L12/26 H04L29/12 G08C25/00 H04M11/00 H04L12/56
G06F11/07

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04L G08C H04M G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

COMPENDEX, EPO-Internal, INSPEC, PAJ, IBM-TDB, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category ^a	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 822 302 A (LANDRY JR HAYES J ET AL) 13 October 1998 (1998-10-13) abstract column 1, line 13 - line 28 column 1, line 45 -column 2, line 5 column 3, line 34 - line 63 column 4, line 55 -column 5, line 12 column 6, line 4 - line 27 ---- -/-	1-9, 13-18, 20

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority, claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 December 2002

Date of mailing of the international search report

10.01.03

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Niculiu, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 02/02326

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 6 138 249 A (NOLET JAMES F) 24 October 2000 (2000-10-24) abstract column 4, line 25 - line 51 column 5, line 18 - line 29 column 7, line 1 - line 20 column 8, line 65 -column 9, line 29 column 9, line 63 -column 10, line 7 column 11, line 26 -column 67 column 15, line 46 -column 16, line 25 column 19, line 15 - line 32 claims 1-4 ---	1-20
A	US 6 094 676 A (EVERETT JR ROBERT D ET AL) 25 July 2000 (2000-07-25) abstract; figures 1,3,5 ---	1-20
P,X	EP 1 096 724 A (MICRO WEB SERVERS) 2 May 2001 (2001-05-02) abstract page 6, line 36 -page 7, line 8 page 10, line 22 - line 29 page 11, line 47 -page 12, line 12 page 12, line 56 -page 13, line 2 ---	1-20
X	EP 1 009 130 A (IBM) 14 June 2000 (2000-06-14) abstract column 6, line 11 - line 17 column 8, line 27 -column 9, line 22 column 13, line 25 -column 15, line 20 column 16, line 25 - line 35 column 19, line 33 - line 48 claim 1; figures 2,4,5 ---	21-31
A	EP 0 990 986 A (NCR INTERNATIONAL INC.) 5 April 2000 (2000-04-05) abstract column 1, line 45 -column 2, line 5 column 3, line 53 -column 4, line 25 column 5, line 6 -column 6, line 19 column 11, line 9 -column 12, line 52 claims 1,8 -----	21-31

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-20

A method for establishing a peer-to-peer review relationship between two or more network enabled appliances by periodically exchanging ping messages between those appliances and to the corresponding network enabled appliance adapted to carry out this method.

2. Claims: 21-31

A method for cataloging resources associated with a network appliance in a directory and to a network appliance comprising such a directory, respectively.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 02/02326

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5822302	A	13-10-1998	WO	9824024 A1		04-06-1998
US 6138249	A	24-10-2000	NONE			
US 6094676	A	25-07-2000	US	6219710 B1		17-04-2001
EP 1096724	A	02-05-2001	AU	1239501 A		08-05-2001
			EP	1096724 A1		02-05-2001
			WO	0131849 A1		03-05-2001
			US	2002174223 A1		21-11-2002
			US	2002161885 A1		31-10-2002
EP 1009130	A	14-06-2000	EP	1009130 A1		14-06-2000
EP 0990986	A	05-04-2000	US	6202149 B1		13-03-2001
			EP	0990986 A2		05-04-2000
			JP	2000112911 A		21-04-2000